

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended to include the features of claim 9 and claim 9 is cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Boehler to Applicants' representative during the November 23, 2005 personal interview. The personal interview is summarized below and thus constitutes Applicants' record of the interview.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 13, 2003. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative.

The rejection of claims 1-8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Becker et al. (Becker), U.S. Patent No. 5,316,379, has been rendered moot by the incorporation of claim 9 features into claims 1 and 12.

As agreed during the personal interview, Becker fails to disclose a device for controlling a steering characteristic of a vehicle with a traction control, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Amberkar et al. (Amberkar), U.S. Patent No. 6,062,336. The rejection is respectfully traversed.


As agreed during the personal interview, Amberkar fails to disclose a device for controlling a steering characteristic of a vehicle, wherein the device makes an amount of controlling the steering characteristic smaller as (1) an index indicating an amount of a shift of vertical loads between left and right wheels is increased, as recited in claim 1; or (2) an index indicating an amount of a degree of turning of the vehicle is increased, as recited in claim 12. Amberkar also fails to perform a traction control as recited in claims 1 and 12.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 9, 2005

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